

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed December 8, 2006. Claims 1-10 remain pending in the Application and stand rejected. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,194,115 to Ramspeck et al. Claims 1 and 6 are the only independent claims of this rejected group. Claim 1 is directed to a nozzle for dispensing multiple liquid filaments onto a moving substrate with a swirled pattern, and claim 6 is directed to a module for dispensing multiple liquid filaments onto a moving substrate with a swirled pattern. Both claims 1 and 6 have been amended to recite that

air discharge passages that are located on diametrically opposite sides of said liquid discharge passage have longitudinal axes lying in parallel planes, and said respective planes are each offset from said central axis of said liquid discharge passage by a distance about equal to one of said radii of said air discharge passages.

Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 6 can be found in the Application at page 10, line 16, through page 11, line 23, and with reference to FIG. 4. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by the amendments to claims 1 and 6.

Ramspeck '115 fails to teach or suggest a nozzle body having air discharge passages with longitudinal axes in planes that are offset from a central axis of a liquid discharge passage by a distance about equal to the radius of one of the air discharge

passages, as set forth in amended claims 1 and 6. Rather, Ramspeck '115 is directed to an adhesive dispensing apparatus wherein a nozzle member 40 with a through bore 45 for liquid material has a longitudinal axis 52. Air jet bores 50 are positioned around the through bore 45, but nowhere does Ramspeck '115 teach or even suggest air discharge passages having longitudinal axes in planes that are offset from the axis 52 by a distance that is about equal to the radius of a jet bore 50. The claimed offset provides smaller, tighter swirl patterns of dispensed liquid at a higher frequency, as discussed in the Application at page 12, lines 19-25. This tighter, higher frequency swirl pattern is desirable for dispensing liquid materials in high-speed production lines. For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1 and 6 over Ramspeck '115 be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 3, and 5 each depend from independent claim 1, and claims 7, 8, and 10 each depend from independent claim 6. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, and 10 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 6, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of these claims over Ramspeck '115 be withdrawn.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,194,115 to Ramspeck et al. Claim 4 depends from independent claim 1, and claim 9 depends from independent claim 6. Accordingly, claims 4 and 9 are not taught or suggested by Ramspeck '115 because Ramspeck '115 fails to teach or

suggest a nozzle body having air discharge passages with longitudinal axes lying in parallel planes that are "offset from said central axis of said liquid discharge passage by a distance about equal to one of said radii of said air discharge passages," as set forth in claims 1 and 6 and discussed above. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 4 and 9 over Ramspeck '115 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and the remarks set forth herein, Applicant believes this application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes any matter requires further discussion, the Examiner is respectfully asked to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the issue may be promptly resolved. The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Applicant is of the opinion that no fee is due as a result of this communication. However, if any such fee is due, please apply such fees or credits necessary to complete this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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